

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1, 8, and 15 without prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said selecting said next task comprises: further comprising:

selecting a task from said tasks based on said priority values and said status designations ~~plurality of statuses associated with said tasks~~, wherein said ~~statuses~~ status designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted;

starting said selected task and designating said selected task an executing task;

if said executing task requests a waiting period, suspending said executing task and designating said executing task a waiting task and repeating said selecting said task and said starting said selected task;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task has a higher priority value than said waiting task, designating said waiting task an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does not have a higher priority value than said waiting task, suspending said

executing task and designating said executing task an interrupted task and repeating said selecting said task and said starting said selected task; and

if said executing task completes execution, designating said executing task a completed task and repeating said selecting said task and said starting said selected task.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said selecting said task includes:

selecting higher priority values before selecting lower priority values when possible.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2 wherein said selecting said task includes:

if a first particular task cannot be executed until a second particular task has completed execution, enabling selection of said first particular task after said second particular task has completed execution.

5. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising:
setting a timer based on said waiting period.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 21 wherein said tasks are BIOS (Basic Input Output System) initialization tasks.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 6 wherein said ~~waiting period is requested from~~ a BIOS kernel receives said request for said particular waiting period.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 22 wherein said selecting said next task comprises: said method further comprises:

selecting a task from said tasks based on said priority values and said status designations ~~plurality of statuses associated with said tasks~~, wherein said ~~statuses~~ status designations include executing, waiting, interrupted, completed, and unstarted;

starting said selected task and designating said selected task an executing task;

if said executing task requests a waiting period, suspending said executing task and designating said executing task a waiting task and repeating said selecting said task and said starting said selected task;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task has a higher priority value than said waiting task, designating said waiting task an interrupted task while allowing said executing task to continue execution;

if said waiting period elapses for any waiting task and said executing task does not have a higher priority value than said waiting task, suspending said executing task and designating said executing task an interrupted task and repeating said selecting said task and said starting said selected task; and

if said executing task completes execution, designating said executing task a completed task and repeating said selecting said task and said starting said selected task.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9 wherein said selecting said task includes:

selecting higher priority values before selecting lower priority values when possible.

11. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9 wherein said selecting said task includes:

if a first particular task cannot be executed until a second particular task has completed execution, enabling selection of said first particular task after said second particular task has completed execution.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9 further comprising:

setting a timer based on said waiting period.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 8 22 wherein said tasks are BIOS (Basic Input Output System) initialization tasks.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13 wherein ~~said waiting period is requested from~~ a BIOS kernel receives said request for said particular waiting period.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim 45 23 wherein when executing said initialization tasks, said BIOS selects an initialization task having a higher priority value before selecting an initialization task having a lower priority value when possible.

17. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim ~~45~~ 23 wherein if a first particular initialization task cannot be executed until a second particular initialization task has completed execution, said BIOS enables selection of said first particular initialization task after said second particular initialization task has completed execution.

18. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim ~~45~~ 23 further comprising:
a timer.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim ~~45~~ 23 wherein said BIOS includes a BIOS kernel for receiving requests for said particular waiting period from said initialization tasks.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in Claim ~~45~~ 23 further comprising a plurality of hardware components.

21. (New) A method of executing a plurality of tasks of different priority values, said method comprising:

utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of said tasks;

while a task is executing, receiving a request for a particular waiting period from said task;

for duration of said particular waiting period, suspending execution of said task; and

selecting a next task to execute based on said priority values of said tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said tasks, wherein said preemptive multitasking and said cooperative multitasking increase utilization of processing power of a processor and ensure higher priority valued tasks are executed with less interruption time than lower priority valued tasks.

22. (New) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of executing a plurality of tasks of different priority values, said method comprising:

utilizing preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking in execution of said tasks;

while a task is executing, receiving a request for a particular waiting period from said task;

for duration of said particular waiting period, suspending execution of said task; and

selecting a next task to execute based on said priority values of said tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said tasks, wherein said preemptive multitasking and said cooperative multitasking increase utilization of processing power of a processor and ensure higher priority valued tasks are executed with less interruption time than lower priority valued tasks.

23. (New) A system comprising:

a processor; and

a BIOS (Basic Input Output System) operative to utilize preemptive multitasking and cooperative multitasking to increase utilization of processing

power of said processor and to ensure higher priority valued initialization tasks are executed with less interruption time than lower priority valued initialization tasks when executing a plurality of initialization tasks of different priority values, wherein said BIOS is operative to receive a request for a particular waiting period from an initialization task while said initialization task is executing, wherein said BIOS is operative to suspend execution of said initialization task for duration of said particular waiting period, and wherein said BIOS is operative to select a next initialization task to execute based on said priority values of said initialization tasks and based on status designations representative of execution progress of said initialization tasks.